

4. (Amended) The skate braking mechanism according to claim 3, wherein the lifter is pivoted about a pivot axis adjacent to a joint between a metatarsal and a phalanx of the toe.

5. (Amended) The skate braking mechanism according to claim 2, wherein the brake comprises a brake shoe coupled to the lifter, and wherein the brake shoe bears on at least one wheel of the skate when actuated.

6. (Amended) The skate braking mechanism according to claim 5, wherein the brake shoe is directly coupled to the lifter.

7. (Amended) The skate braking mechanism according to claim 5, wherein the brake shoe is coupled to the lifter via a linkage.

8. (Amended)

For a user, having a toe, on a skate including at least one wheel: a skate brake actuated by dorsiflexion;

comprising a lifter moved upward by the dorsiflexion to actuate the skate brake;

comprising a brake shoe coupled to the lifter, and wherein the brake shoe bears on at least the one wheel of the skate brake when actuated;

wherein the brake shoe is pivoted to rotate about an axle of another wheel, so as to bear against the one wheel.

9. (Amended) The skate braking mechanism according to claim 5, wherein the brake shoe comprises fiber-reinforced elastomer.

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10. (Amended) The skate braking mechanism according to claim 9, wherein the brake shoe comprises a portion of fiber-reinforced elastomer belt.

11. (Amended) The skate braking mechanism according to claim 9, wherein the elastomer comprises urethane.

12. (Amended) The skate braking mechanism according to claim 2, comprising a return spring counteracting an upward pressing motion of the toe.

13. (New) The skate braking mechanism according to claim 2, wherein the lifter is positioned above the toe forward of metatarsals of the foot of the user.

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14. (New) The skate braking mechanism according to claim 13, wherein the lifter is pivoted to be moved upward by the toe.

15. (New) The skate braking mechanism according to claim 14, wherein the lifter is pivoted about a pivot axis adjacent to a joint between a metatarsal and a phalanx of the toe.

16. (New) For a user having a toe and standing on a skate, a skate braking mechanism comprising:

a brake; and

means for actuating the brake by pressing upward the toe of the user.